

Memorandum

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS

CTC Meeting: April 7-8, 2004

Reference No.: 2.2a.
Action Item

From: ROBERT L. GARCIA
Chief Financial Officer

Prepared by: Gary R. Winters
Division Chief
Environmental Analysis

Ref: **SUMMARY – NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT,
STATE ROUTE 65 IN TULARE COUNTY – REALIGN ROUTE AND CONSTRUCT FOUR-
LANE EXPRESSWAY NEAR LINDSAY**

ISSUE:

The California Transportation Commission (Commission) is being asked to review and comment at the April 2004 Commission meeting on the following Notice of Preparation (NOP):

- Route 65, KP 47.5/62.1 (PM 29.5/38.6). Realign route and construct four-lane expressway near Lindsay. The proposed project would realign State Route 65 and construct a four-lane expressway from Hermosa Avenue to State Route 198 in Tulare County.

PROGRAMMING:

The project is programmed in the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) only for \$1,206,000 in Regional Improvement Program (RIP) funds. The total estimated project cost is \$40,410,000 for construction to begin in FY 2009-10.

ALTERNATIVES BEING CONSIDERED:

- No-Build.
- Alternative 1 would improve County Road 204 (Spruce Road) from a two-lane road to a four-lane expressway using the existing right of way and pavement of County Road 204 (Spruce Road). It would also construct two frontage roads: one west of Road 204 between Avenues 237 and 244, and one east of Road 204 between Avenues 248 and 276. Access to State Route 65 would be provided at Hermosa Avenue, State Route 137, and Avenues 240, 244, 248, 252, 256, 260, 268, 272, 276, 280, 284, and 288.

- Alternative 2 would construct a new four-lane expressway parallel to, and west of, County Road 204 (Spruce Road). This alternative also proposes construction of an overcrossing at County Road 204 (Spruce Road) and Myar Avenue; a frontage road west of the proposed expressway; and access to State Route 65 at Hermosa Avenue, Mariposa Avenue, State Route 137, and Avenues 256 and 280.
- Alternative 3 would construct a new four-lane expressway parallel to, and east of, County Road 204 (Spruce Road). This alternative also proposes construction of an overcrossing at County Road 204 (Spruce Road) and Myar Avenue. Access to State Route 65 would be provided at Hermosa Avenue, State Route 137, and Avenues 256 and 280.

POTENTIAL SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:

- Increased noise levels
- Impacts to vegetative cover and sensitive species
- Changes in agricultural land use
- Aesthetic/visual resource impacts
- Construction impacts to residents and businesses
- Hazardous waste issues
- Community impacts
- Air and water quality
- Impacts to cultural resources (archaeological, historical, and architectural)

PROPOSED MEASURES TO MINIMIZE HARM:

- Coordinate with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on habitat mitigation.
- Coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) on historic structure mitigation.
- Coordinate with the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and the Bureau of Reclamation on waterways mitigation.

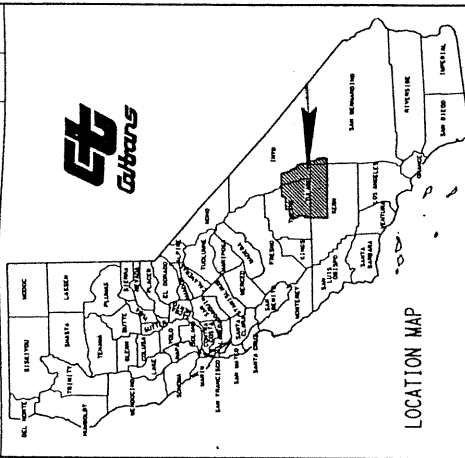
Attachments

STATE OF CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECT PLANS FOR CONSTRUCTION ON STATE HIGHWAY

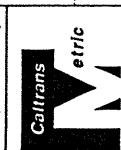
IN TULARE COUNTY
NEAR LINDSAY FROM 0.20 km SOUTHEAST
OF ROUTE 137 TO ROUTE 198

To be supplemented by Standard Plans dated July, 1999

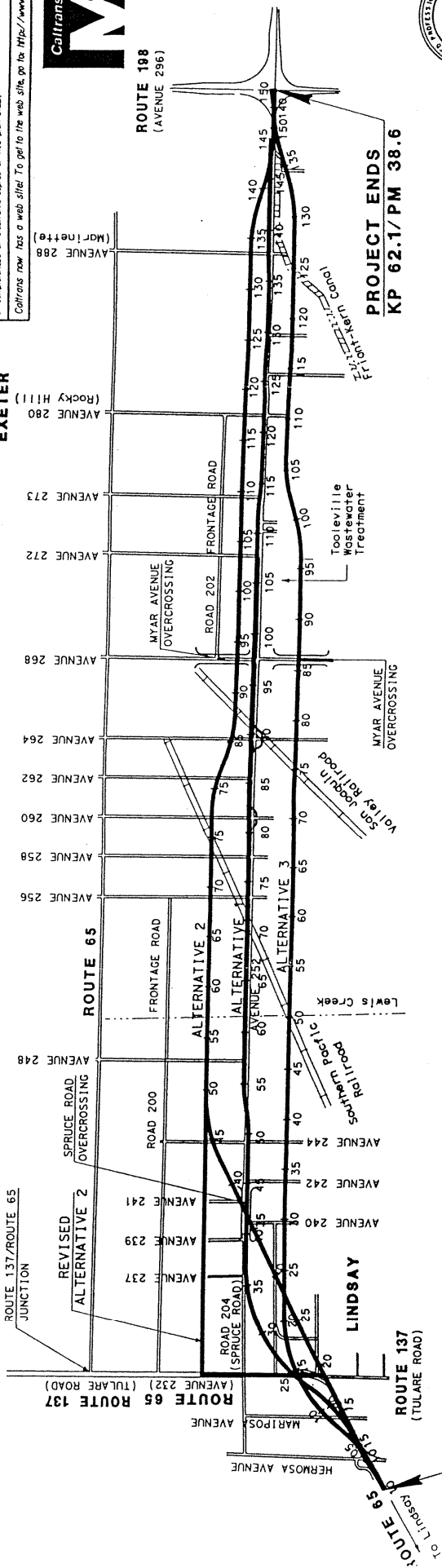
DIST	COUNTY	ROUTE	FROM POST TO POST TOTAL SHEETS	SHEET TOTAL AND SHEETS
06	TUL	65	R47.5/62.1	



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EXETER



PROJECT BEGINS
KP 47.5/PM 29.5

PROJECT ENDS
KP 62.1/PM 38.6



Project Engineer Date
Registered Civil Engineer

Plate Approval Date